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Istook Selected for Homeland Security Committee

Washington, DC -- Today, Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) was chosen as a member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

“I am honored to be selected to serve on this crucial committee,” said Istook.

“Homeland security requires vigilance, diligence, and coordination from all of us. It’s a local and state duty, as well as a national one. I look forward to working with people from Oklahoma as well as from Washington as we face the challenges ahead. ”

Istook is the only Oklahoman appointed to the panel.

“I’m delighted that Congressman Istook has been chosen for the Select Committee on Homeland Security. I know from personal conversations with the Congressman that he understands the issues and is focused on finding the right solution to the tough challenges we face. His selection is good news for Oklahoma and, most importantly, for the nation,” said General Dennis J. Reimer, the director of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism.

The members were appointed by Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) based on their substantive expertise in the many areas such as intelligence, cybersecurity, border and port security, public health, and emergency preparedness that together comprise the mission of the newest Cabinet department.

Istook has gained expertise and expertise in homeland security from his work on the Appropriations Committee. As the chairman of the Treasury, Postal and General Government Subcommittee, he was responsible for oversight of the Office of Homeland Security, the Customs Service, the Secret Service, the National Security Council, and other agencies involved in homeland security. He has also gained relevant experience from his previous service on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Committee on Homeland Security will coordinate all House oversight of the Homeland Security Department in the House of Representatives. It will also exercise exclusive legislative jurisdiction over the Homeland Security Act that established the Federal department tasked with protecting the United States from terrorist attack.

“The impressive group of legislators who will comprise this Committee—including the Chairmen of the most significant committees in the Congress—underscores the importance we attach to protecting our citizens and our country,” the chairman of the committee, Chris Cox (R-CA) said. **“Every member of the Committee, on both sides of the aisle, will work to ensure that the largest reorganization of the U.S. government in over half a century accomplishes its objective: keeping Americans safe.”**